

MEMBERS COMMENTS ON ARTICLES IN PREVIOUS BULLETINS

Belgium IMABA Perfin. Bulletin 240 Pg. 6 and 241 Pg.14.

Hopefully we may now be able to add the final chapter to these IMABA Perfins. L. BALT - Netherlands - spent some time researching this issue and came up with the following:-

1) The first Geneva - New York air flight of Swissair was May 2nd 1947.

2) In Switzerland

The Imaba - The International Stamp Exhibition in Basel - was 21-29th August 1948. For this exhibition the Swiss Post issued a bloc of stamps se-tenant 10c and 20c overprinted:-

IMABA 1948 BASEL <u>Internationaler Briefmarken Ausstellung Basel</u>
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They were overprinted in German, French and Italian. Mr. Balt thinks the word IMABA could be from the letters I have underlined (not on the original) in the overprint above. Catalogue reference is Michel- Western Europe 1989/90, Schweiz, bloc 13. The two stamps in the bloc show Johann Rudolph Wettstein. This stamp, in different colour and value, was issued, with three more, on Feb 27th 1948 (Stamps of the World SG 465) to commemorate

a) The Tercentenary of the Treaty of Westphalia - 1648.

b) The centenary of the Keuchatel Revolution - 1840.

c) The forming of the Swiss Federation - 1848.

He guesses that the Exhibition in Basel had more to do with these events and the first flight to New York was included in the festival.

3) In Belgium

a) For the International Philatelic Exhibition in New York, 1947, the CIPEX, the Belgian Post overprinted the Charity stamps of Demien etc. with 'Poste Airienne-Luchtpost' etc. (Michel-Western Europe 1989/90, Nos.781-789). A note in Michel adds:- "Nos.731-733 with perforation IMAPA and underprinted "IMABA/du 21 Au 29 Aout/1948' are of private origin.

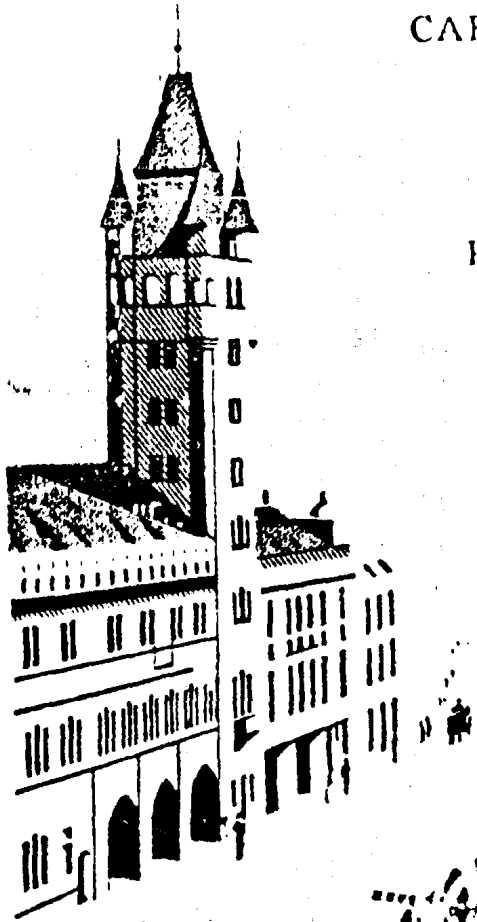
- b) In the Philatelic Encyclopaedia Alphen a/d Ry'n-Brussel 1979. Pg 556 it says:- "Private perforations (Belgian): not the perfins to prevent theft of stamps etc. but:- 'all sorts of perforations with the intention to make money from the collectors. For instance, there is a complete superfluous IMABA perforation on the Belgian Bovaden series with airmail overprint."
- c) Mr Balt does not think that there was any collaboration between the Belgian Postal Authorities and any other person or organisation over the sale of these stamps. He therefore has one more question to ask- 'Who bought the stamps mentioned at 3a) above and then perforated them? Did they actually go on sale at the New York Exhibition and if so, on whose stand? Not a Belgian one he believes.

I (M.R.S.) wrote to the Belgian Study Circle to see if any more information could be gleaned. Their secretary, Mr. A. G. Wood, made comment (which tallies with L. Balt) that in his opinion the whole issue was a racket and he remembers that it had a bad press at the time. The 18 stamps are listed in the Belgian Catalogue Official 1989 under Emissions Privée and priced at 600 Belgian Fr's. both mint and used. He also has some spare copies of Smetzers and Smits' Catalogue of Belgian Perfins (Bulletin 241 Pg. 14) at £6 plus P&P if anyone is interested.

RICHARD MEWHINNEY – USA – informs me that 6 pictorial postcards were also produced and used at the same time as the stamps were perforated and over-printed. The four not illustrated are the same, but using the other 12 stamps in the set. 3 are to the Swiss address and 3 to the Belgian.

If anyone is interested, Dick has for sale 3 complete sets of mint stamps and the 6 cards plus several sets of the 18 stamps as in Bulletin 240. He also says Scott lists the 18 stamps as airpost semi-postals and the over-prints as being issued on 15-7-46.

BIJZONDERE ZENDING BASEL-BRUSSEL



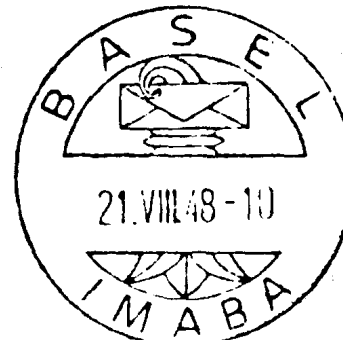
CARTE POSTALE

REPONSE



POSTKAART

ANTWOORD



CARITAS PHILATELICA

11, Avenue Félicien Rops

NAMUR (La plante,

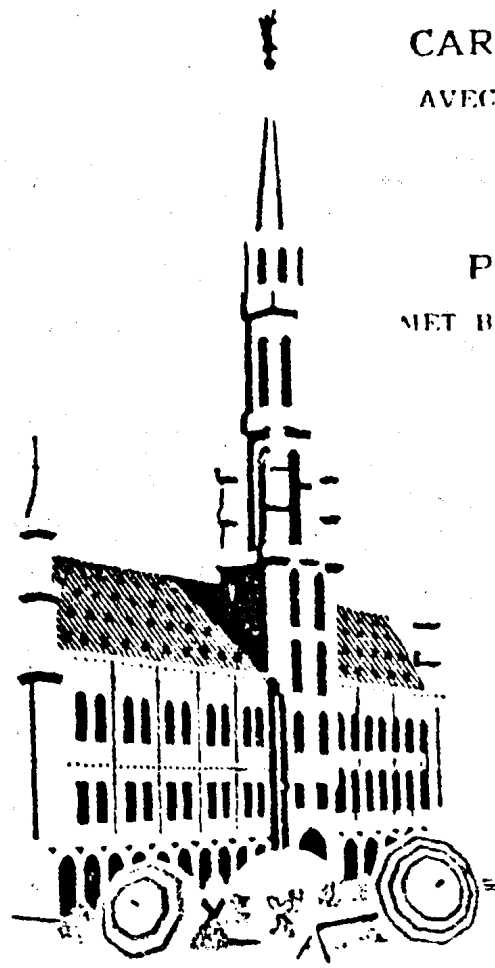
BELGIQUE



IMABA • 21 tot 29 AUGUSTUS 1948



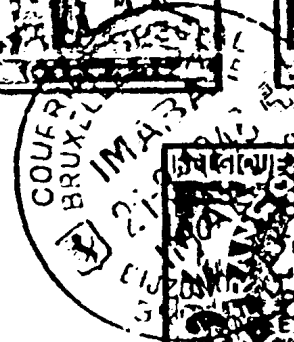
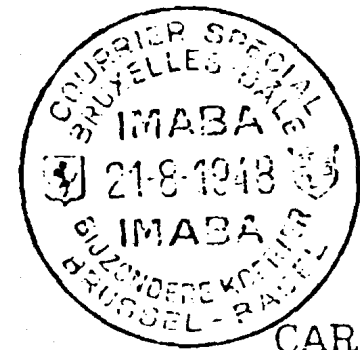
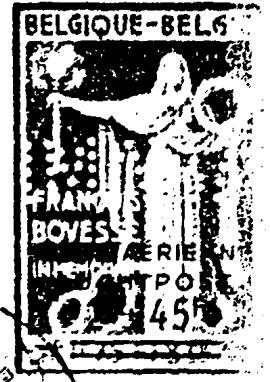
COURRIER SPECIAL BRUXELLES BAËLE



CARTE POSTALE
AVEC REPONSE PAYEE



POSTKAART
MET BETAALD ANTWOORD



CARITAS PHILATELICA
aux bons soins du
Comité Organisateur de l'IMABA

BAËLE
SUISSE



IMABA • 21 au 29 AOÛT 1948

